



COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ

**City of San Diego
Eighth District**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Committee on the Environment

FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Committee on the Environment

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the City's Efforts to Develop and Adopt a Climate Action Plan

Development and eventual passage of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the City of San Diego is critical to creating a framework for sustainable growth and development into the 21st century. Adopting and implementing a rigorous and comprehensive CAP will significantly benefit the health, safety, welfare, and environment of San Diegans by guiding strategic planning and economic and infrastructure development to improve sustainability and quality of life, improve air quality, create middle-class prevailing wage jobs and build resiliency and reduce the harmful impacts of climate change.

As the Mayor continues to progress on the draft CAP developed by Council President Todd Gloria, it is vital that members of the Committee on the Environment and full City Council make clear their expectations for the CAP's goals and outcomes. As such, I would request consideration of the attached proposed resolution in support of the City's efforts to develop and adopt an enforceable and beneficial CAP.

Given our current experience with an early and devastating wildfire season, and extreme drought, the resolution calls for the CAP to be brought forward for public review so that it can be enacted and implemented as soon as possible.

CC: Honorable Mayor Faulconer
Honorable City Councilmembers

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO SUPPORTING THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, climate change will have broad sweeping impacts on the health, safety, economy, and environment of San Diego and the global community including hotter temperatures, droughts and diminishing freshwater resources, more extreme weather patterns, increased risk of wildfires, sea level rise and storm surge, coastal erosion, and stress on our natural resources and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32) requires California to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions statewide to 1990 levels by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, California Executive Order S-03-05 establishes total statewide GHG emissions targets of 2000 levels by 2010, 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board set targets under the California Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (Senate Bill 375) for the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the San Diego region to reduce GHG emissions per capita from automobiles and light duty trucks by 7 percent as compared to 2005 levels by 2020, and by 13 percent by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2008 General Plan requires the City to mitigate the cumulatively significant global warming impacts of implementing the General Plan; reduce the City's carbon footprint; develop and adopt new or amended regulations, programs, and incentives as appropriate to implement the goals and policies set forth; and regularly monitor, update and implement the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the City Council approved Resolution R-306353 establishing the framework for the 2010 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (CMAP) and establishing the Economic and Environmental Sustainability Task Force (EESTF), an advisory group charged with working with the Mayor on development of a CAP; and

WHEREAS, the City and the EESTF have engaged technical experts, sustainability and environmental advocates, businesses, residents, industry associations, and the military through years of public meetings and public comments to provide resourceful ideas and recommendations, and after careful consideration of all input, the EESTF voted overwhelmingly to support the draft CAP released by the City in February 2014; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the CAP is to create a long-range, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to develop and adopt new or amended regulations, programs, and incentives to reduce the City's carbon footprint in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, adopting and implementing a CAP will significantly benefit the health, safety, welfare, and environment of San Diegans by guiding strategic planning and economic and infrastructure development to improve sustainability and quality of life, improve air quality, create middle-class prevailing wage jobs and build resiliency and reduce the harmful impacts of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby requests the Mayor bring forward immediately a CAP that measurably and demonstrably meets GHG reduction goals that comply with federal, state, and local law, and further, that the CAP reduce citywide emissions by 15% below the baseline amount by 2020 and by 49% below the baseline by 2035; and that a final draft of the CAP will be presented to the Committee on the Environment for input and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed CAP meet the aforementioned GHG reduction goals through strategies that would: (a) increase the use of mass transit, walking, and bicycling to a minimum of 50% of commuter trips by 2035 through land use planning, transit advocacy, and active transportation infrastructure investment especially in neighborhoods most overburdened by air pollution, climate impacts, and transportation inequity; (b) achieve the use of 100% clean energy citywide by 2035 that prioritizes the use of local clean energy resources; (c) create middle-class prevailing wage jobs that create career paths for local, skilled workers especially from areas of high unemployment; (d) significantly reduce energy demand from existing buildings through enforceable mechanisms; (e) significantly reduce waste; (f) increase urban parks and trees especially in underserved neighborhoods; and (g) bolster the resiliency of our infrastructure, health, and natural resource areas against climate impacts such as sea level rise, coastal erosion, wildfires, drought, and heat waves.